NUMB. XCIV.

The GUARDIAN.

Ingenium ſibi quod vacuas deſumpſit Athenas,
Et ſtudiis annos ſeptem dedit, inſenuitque
Libris & Curis; ſtatuâ taciturnus exit
Plerumque, & riſu Populum quatit —— Hor.

Monday, June 29. 1713.

SINCE our Succeſs in Wordly Matters may be ſaid to depend upon our Education, it will be very much to the Purpoſe to enquire if the Foundations of our Fortune could not be laid deeper and ſurer than they are. The Education of Youth falls of Neceſſity under the Direction of thoſe who, thro' fondneſs to us and our Abilities, as well as to their own unwarrantable Conjectures, are very likely to be deceived, and the Miſery of it is, that the poor Creatures, who are the Sufferers upon wrong Advances, ſeldom find out the Errors till they become irretrievable. As the greater Number of all Degrees and Conditions have their Education at the Univerſities, the Errors which I conceive to be in thoſe Places fall moſt naturally under the following Obſervations. The firſt Miſmanagement in theſe Publick Nurſeries is the calling together a number of Pupils, of howſoever different Ages, Views and Capacities, to the ſame Lectures: But ſurely there can be no Reaſon to think, that a delicate tender Babe, juſt wean'd from the Boſom of his Mother, indulg'd in all the Impertinences of his Heart's Deſire, ſhould be equally capable of receiving a Lecture of Philoſophy, with a hardy Ruffian of full Age, who has been occaſionally ſcourged thro' ſome of the great Schools, groaned under conſtant Rebuke and Chaſtiſement, and maintain'd a ten Years War with Literature under very ſtrict and rugged Diſcipline.

I know the Reader has pleas'd himſelf with an Anſwer to this already *viz.* That an Attention to the particular Abilities and Deſigns of the Pupil, can't be expected from the trifling Salary paid upon ſuch Account. The Price indeed which is thought a ſufficient Reward, for any Advantages a Youth can receive from a Man of Learning, is an abominable Conſideration, the enlarging which, would not only increaſe the Care of Tutors, but would be a very great Encouragement to ſuch as deſign'd to take this Province upon them, to furniſh themſelves with a more general and extenſive Knowledge. As the Caſe now ſtands, thoſe of the firſt Quality pay their Tutors but little above half ſo much as they do their Footmen: What Morality, what Hiſtory, what Taſte of the Modern Languages, what, laſtly, that can make a Man happy, or great, may not be expected in return for ſuch an immenſe Treaſure! 'Tis monſtrous indeed, that the Men of the beſt Eſtates and Families, are more Sollicitous about the Tutelage of a favourite Dog or Horſe, than of their Heirs Male. The next Evil is the Pedantical Veneration that is maintain'd at the Univerſity for *Greek* and *Latin*, which puts the Youth upon ſuch Exerciſes as many of them are incapable of performing with any tolerable Succeſs. Upon this Emergency they are ſuccour'd by the allow'd Wits of their reſpective Colleges, who are always ready to befriend them with two or three hundred *Latin* or *Greek* Words thrown together, with a very ſmall Proportion of Senſe.

But the moſt eſtabliſh'd Error of our Univerſity Education, is the general Neglect of all the little Qualifications and Accompliſhments which make up the Character of a well-bred Man, and the general Attention to what is called deep Learning. But as there are very few bleſſed with a Genius that ſhall force Succeſs by the Strength of it ſelf alone, and few Occaſions of Life that require the Aid of ſuch Genius, the vaſt Majority of the unbleſs'd Souls ought to ſtore themſelves with ſuch Acquiſitions, in which every Man has Capacity to make a conſiderable Progreſs, and from which every common Occaſion of Life may reap great Advantage. The Perſons that may be uſeful to us in the making our Fortunes, are ſuch as are already happy in their own; I may proceed to ſay, that the Men of Figure and Family are more ſuperficial in their Education than thoſe of a leſs Degree, and, of Courſe, are ready to encourage and protect that Qualification in another which they themſelves are Maſters of. For their own Application implies the Purſuit of ſomething commendable; and when they ſee their own Characters propoſ'd as imitable, they muſt be won by ſuch an irreſiſtable Flattery. But thoſe of the Univerſity, who are to make their Fortunes by a ready Inſinuation into the Favour of their Superiors, contemn this neceſſary Foppery ſo far, as not to be able to ſpeak Common Senſe to them,

(Price Two Pence.)